



January 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee, SUNY Board of Trustees

From: Kathryn Connell-Espinosa, Executive Director
SUNY Charter Schools Institute

UPDATES

Revisions

Ascend Charter Schools, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, requests the following revision:

- **Flatbush Ascend Charter School**, located at 123 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11226 and 1833 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11226 in Community School Districts (“CSDs”) 17 and CSD 22, respectively, is chartered to serve 402 students in grades K-7 for the 2025-26 school year growing to serve 451 students in grades K-8 by the 2028-29 school year, the final year of the current charter term. The school requests an enrollment increase to serve 520 students in grades K-7 for the 2025-26 school year growing to serve 558 students in grades K-8 by the 2028-29 school year due to increased demand. The Institute reviewed the staffing plan and revised budget and finds the enrollment re-configuration will allow the school to continue to operate in an educationally, fiscally, and legally sound manner. Therefore, the Institute approves the revision to the school’s charter.

Spring 2026 Evaluation Overview

During spring 2026, the Institute will conduct 49 monitoring and evaluation touchpoints with schools. The Institute differentiates its visit activities during the spring to provide comprehensive and responsive oversight. This spring, the Institute anticipates conducting:

- Evaluative visits to or meetings with 28 schools and/or charter school boards of trustees to verify progress in establishing effective academic, fiscal, and operational structures;
 - Evaluative first-year visits to five schools that opened in 2025-26 to assess the degree to which they have established their programs as outlined in their applications and SUNY charter agreements, and to provide technical support to the new school leaders and boards of trustees; and,
 - Sixteen required annual visits to pre-Kindergarten programs operated by SUNY authorized charter schools.
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2026 New Charter Request for Proposals Update

The Institute released the 2026 Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on December 5, 2025. Currently, 84 charters are available for applicants seeking to open charter schools outside of New York City. The 2026 RFP identifies one application round with proposals and business plans due on April 15, 2026. The Institute anticipates asking the Charter Schools Committee to approve any proposals that meet statutory requirements and SUNY’s standards at a committee meeting in the Fall of 2026.